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SANITARY LEGISLATION.

STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

RHODE ISLAND.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Notification of Cases. (Chap. 1081, Act May 6, 1914.)

SECTION 1. Section 25 of chapter 343 of the general laws is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

"SEC. 25. Should any midwife or nurse, or person acting as nurse, having charge of an infant in this State, notice that one or both eyes of such infant are inflamed or with swelling or reddening of lids and an unnatural discharge or reddened at any time within two weeks after its birth, it shall be the duty of such midwife or nurse, or person acting as nurse, so having charge of such infant, to report the fact in writing within six hours to the health officer, or some qualified practitioner of medicine, of the city or town in which the parents of the infant reside. Every practitioner of medicine attending the birth of an infant shall immediately after the birth of such infant treat the eyes of such infant with a prophylactic remedy for the prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum."

SEC. 2. Section 26 of chapter 343 of the general laws is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

"SEC. 26. Every health officer shall furnish a copy of this act to each person who is known to him to act as midwife or nurse in the city or town for which such health officer is appointed, and the secretary of state shall cause a sufficient number of copies of this act to be printed, and supply the same to the health officers on application. The State board of health shall furnish free of cost to all persons authorized to practice medicine in this State such prophylactic remedy as it may deem best for the prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum."

Pathologist and Assistant Pathologist—Appointment and Duties. (Act May 5, 1914.)

SECTION 1. Chapter 115 of the general laws, entitled "Of the State board of health," as amended by chapter 386 of the public laws, passed at the January session, A. D. 1909, is hereby further amended by adding thereto the following section:

"SEC. 14. The board shall appoint a well-qualified person as pathologist, who shall, under the direction of the board, have full charge of the pathological and bacteriological part of the laboratory maintained by the board, and shall conduct and supervise the pathological and bacteriological researches made in such laboratory, and who shall devote all of his time to the office. He may, with the consent of the board, appoint an assistant pathologist, and the board shall fix the salaries of said pathologist and assistant, but not exceeding \$4,000 annually for the pathologist nor \$1,500 annually for the assistant pathologist, and such salaries shall be in full compensation for any of their services in connection with said board."

(1857)